

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

EXHIBIT 6DATE 1/23/13HB 13

January 23, 2013

Honorable Representative Duane Ankey Chair
And Members of the House Appropriations Committee
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Sent via email and FAX

Chairman and Honorable Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of the City of Missoula, I urge your strong support of this year's negotiated pay plan with state employees. This legislation is a critical opportunity for this year's legislature to contribute to the quality of Montana public services and to invest in a growing Montana economy.

State employees are absolutely essential partners with both the public and private sectors in Missoula. From probation and parole officers who help keep our streets safe, to transportation engineers who help us to maintain our infrastructure, Missoula greatly values the services that state employees provide to our community. Like so many other Montanans throughout the state, Missoula citizens know that recruiting and retaining dedicated public servants is essential to the quality of those services. However, after four years of little or no base pay increases, we know that state employees are falling behind both their public sector and private sector counterparts in our region. When this happens, turnover rates grow, quality of services diminishes, and our communities ultimately suffer. HB 13 offers an immediate means to remedy this situation and bring pay levels back into ranges that will allow state agencies to assure consistent levels of services.

Investing in Montana state employees is also simply good business and good for our Montana economy. Missoula County is home to just under 1000 Montana state employees with total payroll of over \$30 million. These employees spend their hard-earned salaries locally. They are an absolutely vital part of our local economy. As a result, when the legislature passes a bill like HB 13, small and large businesses in Missoula directly benefit, and they benefit immediately.

We urge you to pass HB 13 expeditiously and make this important investment in our community and so many others throughout the state.

Sincerely,

John Engen
Mayor

cc: Missoula Delegation
Alec Hanson, Montana League of Cities and Towns
KMC Strategic Communications, LLC



CITY OF MISSOULA FAX COVER PAGE
435 RYMAN
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

Date: 1/23/2013

From: Linda Jordan

To: House Fax

Department: Mayor

Fax: (406) 327- 2102

Regarding: Mayor's Support of HB13

Total pages with cover: 3

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Chairman and Honorable Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of Mayor Engen I am sending you Missoula's support of HB 13. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Linda Jordan

Administrative Services/Project Manager

Mayor's Office

(406) 552-6001

City of Missoula